University of Nebraska at Omaha

Next Gateway: Dec. 3

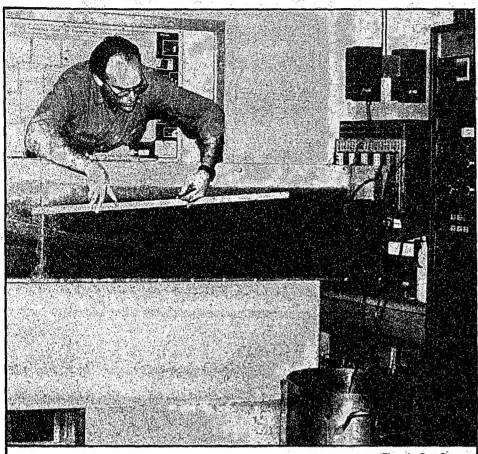


Photo by Scot Shugart

Working in the 'sandbox'

UNO student Fred Jones, a civil engineering major, stands over a "sandbox" he built for his graduate thesis. The apparatus simulates saltwater seepage into groundwater aquifers. The salt water is dyed red so it is visible as it flows through the sand.

Early registration costsmight cause cash crunch

By TIM KALDAHL

UNO students on a tight budget might find themselves hard up for cash with Christmas approaching because of the university's deadline for payment of students' early registration deposit balance.

Students must pay \$262.25 or their total tuition, whichever is less, by Dec. 10 or forfeit the classes in which they enrolled during early registration.

"I wish that the money would have been due in after the holidays, like it was last year," UNO student Terri Tingwald said. Her husband, Tim, also is a student. They have two children.

Mrs. Tingwald said she receives financial aid in the form of a guaranteed student loan (GSL), but that the loan will not be processed until after early registration. She said she and her husband must take advantage of early registration so they can get the classes they need to graduate.

The \$25 early registration deposit and \$262.25 balance is due by Dec. 10 this year because regular registration starts on Jan. 6, Julie Totten, assistant vice chancellor of business and finance, said. The money is collected before regular registration begins because that makes it more likely that those who early registered will keep those classes.

"There is no other way this year to do it," Totten said. The decision to make the money due Dec. 10 was made by representatives from the Registrar's Office, the Financial Aid Office and Student Services and was approved by the Chancellor's Office. Those involved said that the deadline was fair.

"Dec. 10 gives the same number of days as

fall early registration," Totten said. Students who do not pay the \$262.25 by Dec. 10 lose the \$25 early-registration fee and their class reservations, although they still can register during the regular registration period, she said.

"The (early-registration) system works very well," Randy Sell, manager of student accounts said. The \$287.25 deposit is the cost of sixhours of tuition and fees, he said. The rest of the money a student owes is not due in until Feb. 27, he said. The cost of early registration is deferred for students who are using financial aid; the aid is used to pay the deposit, he said.

Sell said students make it easier on themselves by taking advantage of early registration, thus avoiding the regular-registration rush and reducing the likelihood of contending with closed classes.

"If they (students) wait until January to register, they still have to pay \$287.25," he said.

Student Accounts has tried to alert students that their deposit money is due Dec. 10 by placing posters in all campus buildings. By Dec. 3 the Student Accounts Office also mails confirmation statements detailing what students owe and the classes for which they registered, Sell said.

Plans for next year's spring registration are not yet definite, Totten said, but money again likely will be due in mid-December for purposes of consistency.

Terri Tingwald said she and her husband will pay the balance of their early registration fees on time, although it will make for a leaner

"It just makes things so hard," she said.

UNO's Health Services seeks to hire staff nurse

By CHERY LORRAINE

UNO is currently advertising for a nurse practitioner to be head of staff at its Health Center, Barbara Hewins-Maroney said Tuesday.

day.

"The nurse practitioner probably will be able to provide most of the same services as the physician's assistant," Hewins-Maroney said. "Like doctors, they all have specialties, and each individual has his or her own special skills and professional interests.

"We're looking for someone with a background in family practice and experience working with young people," she said.

The nurse practitioner will replace Shelley Helzer, a physician's assistant who resigned the Health Center position last June after working there for four years. The change in professional classification for the office's director was suggested by the Nebraska State Board of Health after it completed a review of the Health Center this fall.

The investigation, conducted by the board's assistant director, included all aspects of the practice, Hewins-Maroney said.

"He went over everything with a fine-tooth comb," she said. "He found that our records are well kept. Even the way cases are written is important, because other medical offices ask for information, and many have commented that our records are exceptional.

"Our standard of confidentiality was also found to be excellent," Hewins-Maroney said. "The people working in the office don't discuss cases among themselves." Other personnel in the Health Center include a medical assistant and an insurance clerk.

'Services adequate'
The investigation also revealed that the services offered are "adequate" for UNO's needs and the quality of services is "very good," she

However, recently developed regulations regarding physician's assistants were a problem.

"They stipulate that the assistant in a satellite facility — an office not directly associated with a medical center or private practice must work with the supervising physician at least one-third of the time," Hewins-Maroney

"We had been sending Shelley to our physician's office for that time. Instead, the State Board wants that supervision to take place on campus. Our physician can't provide that much time, so a nurse practitioner was suggested because he or she would require less contact with the physician."

Helzer, who now works in cardiology at Immanuel Hospital in Omaha, said the two types of professionals are similar in that they both require professional training after they receive their undergraduate degrees.

"However, the physician's-assistant program is completed at a medical center, and we take many of the same courses as medical students," Helzer said. "We can diagnose, prescribe medicine and do minor surgery; a nurse practitioner cannot."

The nurse practitioner's professional training is more specialized, and the field is new to Nebraska. "Their practice has been made legal in this state just two years ago," Helzer said. \$61,000 budget

That means very few nurse practitioners are available for the Health Center position, Hewins-Maroney said. "We've had to consider other alternatives, including hiring a full-time physician, but that's not likely to happen. Our budget is only \$61,000 a year, and most doctors make much more than that in private practice."

The supervising physician for the UNO

See Nurse (continued on page 4)

UNO professor circulates Boyle recall petitions

By BILL CARMICHAEL

One person who helped gather signatures for petitions aimed at recalling Omaha Mayor Michael Boyle was John Shroder, a UNO geology

"I'm not a political person at all, but I was so (upset) at what Boyle was doing that I volunteered to help in the petition drive."

The group calling itself Citizens for Mature Leadership (CML) announced Tuesday that it would submit signed petitions calling for Boyle's recall to the Election Commissioner's office on Nov. 20, rather than on Nov. 25 as originally planned.

Jim Cleary, spokesman for the group, said that as of Tuesday there were "more than enough signatures to force a recall election." At that time 29,782 signatures had been gathered, and the group's check of 300 signatures indicated that 87 percent of the signatures were valid.

"Instead of working another week to gain an additional 5,000 to 10,000 signatures," Cleary said, "we decided it would be more productive to focus our efforts on the election phase of this effort."

CML volunteers have been gathering signatures for several weeks. Cleary has said the group's efforts mainly have been in response to "the pattern of power abuse in the mayor's office." A primary example of this, the group says, was the firing of Omaha Police Chief Robert Wadman.

Schroder said he had gathered more than 200 signatures, including about 100 from UNO faculty members.

"I didn't even have to go solicit them," Schroder said. "People were coming to my office and asking to sign."

A UNO student who asked that his name not be used also gathered signatures on campus. He said he gathered "20 signatures in 15 minutes," and that "student response was pretty good."

The Douglas County Election Commissioner's Office must now check the validity of the signatures. A petition-signer's signature is valid if he is a registered voter of Douglas County and an Omaha resident. At least 19,660 valid signatures are needed to force a recall election.

"We are hopeful that an early turn-in may result in the election staff being able to spend Thanksgiving at home with their families," Cleary said, "and our volunteers have worked hard. We wanted them to relax this weekend and watch the Nebraska-Oklahoma game."

Concerning the cost of a recall election, Cleary said, "Every election costs a lot of money, but a recall election is an important part of our democracy and is no different from any other election.

"Also," he said, "the final decision on whether there needs to be a recall election or not rests with the mayor himself."

Cleary said CML now will shift its focus to the possible recall election, which probably would occur in January.

"We'll probably be calling a lot of people. We want to reach those people who are angry with the mayor, but who can't decide whether or not to support a recall," Cleary said.

"We'll probably do some TV spots, to educate people about recall elections," he said, "because they're somewhat confusing. To vote in favor of a recall, a person will have to vote 'ves."

In the event of a recall, an interim mayor will be chosen by the City Council. "If there is a recall," Cleary said, "we will probably not endorse a replacement candidate, although we may present a slate of responsible people who we think would be good possibilities to the City Council."

Basketball teams tip-off season tonight

The UNO Lady Maverick basketball team, led by all-NCC selection Laura J. Anderson and 6-foot-2 senior Jackie Scholten, will open its season tonight with the first half of a basketball doubleheader. The Lady Mavs will play Northwestern, Iowa, at 5:45 p.m. in the UNO Fieldhouse.

The UNO men take on Bellevue College at 8 p.m. UNO is led by the scoring of Tom Thompson and Mark Miller. Coach Bob Hanson is the dean of North Central Conference coaches with 18 years at UNO. Admission to both games is \$3 for adults, \$2 for students. UNO students get in free.

Comment

Recalling Boyle equals crap shoot

Should Mike Boyle be retained as mayor of Omaha? It looks as though Omaha voters will have the chance to make that decision come January.

Many Omahans undoubtedly are less than pleased with their mayor, most recently because Boyle fired Police Chief Robert Wadman.

Certainly Boyle often has acted less than "politically" (here meaning wisely), witness recurrent problems involving the Police Department, a clash with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the childish and by now infamous butter-patty-throwing incident, to name some of Boyle's public-relations problems.

Such incidents have tarnished Boyle's public reputation as mayor and, one might fairly conclude, his effectiveness in that





capacity, which necessarily entails maintaining a good image in the community in general and among subordinates in particular. Boyle's ongoing problems with the Police Department some-

times have seemed like a sort of family feud.

Simply put, the mayor shouldn't have to apologize as much as Boyle has. This undermines his credibility.

Now, of course, Boyle is remaining relatively passive in the face of the recall drive. Indeed, Boyle seems almost contrite. For once it appears he's seen the wisdom of saying little and doing less.

Perhaps Boyle really does think he made some serious mistakes which he now regrets. Maybe he's keeping a low profile because he thinks that's the best way to save his political life. Perhaps he's hoping to elicit voter sympathy, or even pity. Maybe Boyle figures the best way to combat the recall drive is by letting it take its course. Only Boyle knows his motives for sure

But whether or not one likes Boyle and/or the job he's done as mayor. Omahans should think more than twice about voting against him in a recall election.

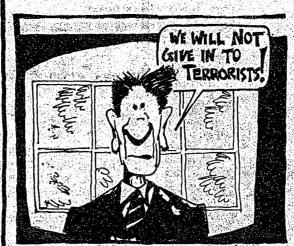
It's not the estimated \$120,000 cost of a recall election, although that certainly is a considerable sum. However, the recall process is one to which the citizens are entitled, and, as Citizens for Mature Leadership (the recall-drive group) spokesman Jim Cleary rightly pointed out: "Every election costs a lot of money." Democracy costs money."

The biggest problem with a recall election is this: If Boyle were to lose the election, the City Council would select Omaha's new mayor. That person might be a council member; then again, he or she might not be.

I almost signed a recall-Boyle petition, but the more I got to thinking about the prospect of the City Council choosing my next mayor, the less I wanted to sign.

I'm not a flagwaver for Boyle, but I'm not thrilled about gambling on the City Council's wisdom in selecting Boyle's replacement. I like having a more direct say in who Omaha's mayor is,

Despite Boyle's shortcomings, he's a known commodity. Anyone who votes against him in a recall election is in effect taking a crap shoot — I hope those people are ready to live with the City Council's choice of a mayor who will serve until May 1989. I'm not.



WHAT WE HEARD ...



WHAT WAS CLOSE-CAPTIONED.

Hitchhiking evokes melancholy memories

Not so long ago it was a right of passage for young Americans to hit the road . . . to take up the pack, stick out the thumb and roam the narrow blacktop farm-to-market roads and huge interstate missile-transport routes of the Empire.

I'm reminded of this by a movie just seen at the New Cinema Co-op called "Vagabond." It recounts, through the impressions of people met along the way, the last few weeks in the life of Mona, a French girl who gives up a clerical job and hitches around France with everything she owns in a backpack.

As I watched the film I felt several things. At first, I remembered my own hitchhiking days, and the thrill of absolute adventure, going places I'd never been, seeing people I'd never seen before, and knowing there was practically no chance I'd ever see those places or meet those people again, ever. In that situation there is a freedom — real or imagined, it doesn't matter — that allows for incredible latitudes of behavior. Pick a different name, make up a story about your past, live as someone else for a few days, weeks even . . . it makes no difference. No job to go to, no social standing to maintain, no expectations to meet, Freedom.

As the movie went on, a different feeling came over me, and I remembered why I quit hitching. The actress who played Mona displayed it on her face time and time again . . . at the side of a dirt lane, on a bus-station bench, in an abandoned house, and I recognized it in myself and, to varying degrees, almost everyone else I had ever met on the road. She had that look on her face, and I knew how she felt, although I had no sympathy for her.

I felt it lying in the youth hostel in Denver when I was too sick even to sell blood, I felt it outside Couldersport, Penn, when the guy with the coonskin cap and "LOVE" tatooed across the knuckles of his right hand picked up me and my buddy and asked us to spend the night. I felt it sleeping on the grate outside the Presbyterian church on Mass Avenue in Cambridge, I felt it sitting outside the border crossing at Pembina, N.D., waiting to walk across into Canada after nightfall.

But I felt it most often, and most acutely, at dusk in farm country. With the light failing, nowhere to go, nothing to do, no cars on the road, no food in the pack, no money and nowhere to spend it if I had it, the feeling would come up out of the pavement like fog. It is melancholy, as you've probably guessed, but of a distinctive stripe.... loose, glazed and cold, oddly soft and slanty, like mold on old Jell-O. If it were visible, you could only see it sideways, which accounts for the look that you get when you have it, the look Mona portrayed so well. It resembles

Dan Prescher



malnutrition, it makes the eyes dazed and unfocused, obtuse, as though you're looking at the sky, the road, and the Stuckey's billboard all at the same time. It's fuzzy and compelling and not at all uncomfortable, and if a guy weren't careful, he could really get used to it. That's when you know it's time to go home.

Mona ends up dead of exposure in a ditch. She lived on the road with no thought of going home when whatever job she happened to find was over. The road is where she died, wrapped in a melancholy she exuded like the odor of her unwashed body, insulation against the absolute cold of complete independence.

Young Americans made the passage as a matter of course some years ago. Perhaps millions performed the rite, out of choice or necessity, and most like me, had comfortable homes to return to. It was a trial that killed a very few, saved a very few, and failed to affect the vast majority in any significant way. But everyone who attempted it saw at one time or another what a marvelous material the fabric of our society is made from. So light you almost forget how it restricts your movement. So comfortable you can't imagine being without it. So present in our lives that we feel it must extend everywhere and cover everyone, And yet so thin that one jab of the thumb will punch a hole large enough for a person with a backpack to jump through.

What's on the other side is immediate, utter, and impersonal life, the kind lived all over the world by people who have never experienced protection under law, much less expected it. People who have no food. None. People who sleep in the street. People who are killed for no apparent reason by people they don't know or by soldiers whose cause they have never heard of. People who are completely free . . . to die at any time they want.

A generation of young Americans sought out that kind of experience and came back scared. They dug in and got jobs, had kids, let Reagan get elected, and pulled the blankets up at night. And they do their best never, ever to feel that melancholy again.

Then a show like this comes along.

■ What do you think about the United States providing military equipment to

Viewfinder Opinions solicited by Tim McMahan



Harold Ostler, senior Political Science

"I think the idea of having better relations with Iran is good, but they should involve key members of Congress more (with this Security Council issue). As far as arms supplying is concerned, more research and investigation is needed."



Chris Kerby, sophomore
Undeclared

"I don't think we should because we're not getting anything in return. We provide all these countries with equipment and food, but what do we get in return?"



John Rouser, freshman Undeclared

"I don't think they should because we're not getting any oil from them and they could turn those weapons back on us. There's already enough problems over there as it is."



Julie Politi, sophomore Psychology

"Considering our past experiences with them, we shouldn't. Who says they won't take hostages again."



Joong Gun Chung Associate Professor Political Science

"Although the administration justifies arms shipment, to Iran on the basis of national interest, the priority of national interest seems to be dislocated between the promotion of American relations with moderate groups in Iran versus the fighting of terrorism."

Time to get your free constitution! Yabba dabba doo!

Mr. Warren E. Burger, since he relinquished - the Constitution as pablum which can be emthe central seat on the Supreme Court, has become the chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, It seems appropriate - in a somewhat perverse fashion — if one believes every syllable of the questionable maxim; "The Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is."

Mr. Burger's job is to guide the coordination of celebrations of the supreme law of the land, which celebrations begin next September. And, it is fair to say, Mr. Burger has wasted little time, in letting fly with some rather arresting ideas, notwithstanding that the jury (pardon me) hearing them is still out,

Mr. Clyde Farnsworth of the New York Times reports that, at a recent dinner, the president of a major food company was asked by Mr. Burger why said company did not think to insert a copy of the Constitution into boxes of its breakfast cereal. In light of one's comprehension that a good number of Supreme Court rulings and their corresponding opinions, several of which Mr. Burger himself shepherded (Roe vs. Wade, anyone?), have treated

bellished according to the diner's preference, as opposed to the compound's source flavor, that is an arresting idea. But can you picture your children suddenly hearing Fred Flintstone end an advertisement by bellowing; "Hey, kids! Get your free copy of the Constitution inside specially-marked boxes of Post Fruity Pebbles Cereal! Yabba dabba doo!"?

The shame of it is that it is a good idea. Yes, Virginia, we have come to that point at which it is not merely given but, even, necessary, to communicate the import of the Constitution in terms and by conduits one ordinarily associates with perishables from Post Fruity Pebbles to the American Express Card. People lurk about, from sea to shining sea, who find nothing shocking when the "free expression" of "ideas" (a discerniable, albeit misconstrued Constitutional point) shares a conjugal bed with the freewheeling crassness which fires the "ideas" expressed in advertising pitching. It is no longer unrealistic to discover, for every cry of a slogan, there is someone who does not blush while arguing the 40 signatories to the

Jeffrey A. Kallman

Constitution had in mind to protect our rights to debate such as "Tastes great!" "Less filling!" Did I get it backward? Tough turpentine.

The Constitution permits, albeit by salutary neglect, enterprise. But enterprise in the present day has come to be dominated by those whose purpose in life is to satisfy appetites less cultivated, even, than those which consume Post Fruity Pebbles at the breakfast table. Mr. Leonard E: Read, teacher and, essayist, once lamented the preponderance of irresponsible fillers of demonstrated desires. But how do you convince the usual suspects the fault lies not with the Constitution, or the free market, but with the minds of men?

A few years ago, an enterprising publisher

thought it might be arresting to print a simplified translation of the Bible, and hawk it on television: ("C'mon, America, discover The Book!"): Hello wasteland, bye-bye Masoretic Text/King James Version But it sold/sells It might have been reassuring to find the same voices which howl (properly) about the loss of faith and the usurpations of secularism howl over this emasculation.

Which reminds me: one manifestation of Mr. Burger's puckish inquiry, according again to Mr. Farnsworth, is the Hilton Hotels and the Marriott Corporation's mulling the idea of placing copies of the Constitution in their hotel rooms, even as the Gideons continue to place the Bible in the same places. Now that, quite naturally, sounds less squeamish and more arresting than the thought of placing the product of wise Founding Fathers in places usually reserved for magic decorder rings or She-Ra stickers. But that one would likely be spoiled when the ACLU opens its big yap, bellowing about "Separation of church and state!" Sounds illogical? It never stopped them before.

Access

'Fry-dye' disease strikes Negroes

topics in a manner which is not potentially libelous, vulgar or blatantly self-serving. Send articles to the Gateway bearing name, return address and phone number; pieces must be typed, double-spaced and signed. (Articles may be printed under a pseudonym if accompanied by the

African-Americans are one of the most destructive groups living within this society. One only has to examine the high rate of violent crimes among African-Americans. Some call it "blackon-black crime." Social scientists have noted in many studies the astronomical rates of robbery, murder and other acts directed against similar group members. Some would argue the environment fosters such behavior. If one examines the growing statistics, there appears to be a semblance of truth to that:

African-Americans are socialized from the time they are in the gradle nearly up to the journey, to the grave that they are evil, bad and ugly. Many have come to internalize such propaganda, and in turn have come to hate themselves as well as other group members.

This behavior is reflected in the notion that many would rather deal; socialize and confide in Europeans than their own group members. The groups that covertly display the greatest amount of hate are the middle-class Negroes and the petty criminals who spend an inordinate amount of time looking for folks to rip off or verbally back-bite.

 The middle-class Negroes can be spotted by their outlandish behavior. Most have been affected with the dreaded disease of the "fry-dye-and-lye". This is where someone alters the texture of his hair so as to appear similar to a European. Such people must go to a conk-shop and get some demented hairdresser or coiffeuse to make them appear:"normal" by putting lye on their hair. Granted, this is not the same as the kind used in ovencleaners, but a milder version which burns just as well. I can just hear the individual African hairs hollering. "Please don't put the napalm on me." However, most African-Americans engage in this practice — frequently — because they hate African

In the case of folks who dye their hair, this group is increasing tremendously. The popularity of Ms. "Tin-Nut" Turner's mane propelled many to imitate this bizzare look. Even the "Queen of Soul," Ms. Aretha Franklin, has undergone countless dye-lye

As for those who "fry" their hair, they use a hot metal comb and pull this apparatus through their scalp (sometime burning it) so as to alter the texture of their natural African features. Few individuals are aware that the first African-American millionaire rise was derived from selling hundreds of thousands of hot combs. This was a period when Negroes wanted to be like whites at all cost.

African-Americans will forever be on the bottom of the totem pole in this racist country if they continue to allow outsiders to dictate to them the contrived aesthetic of beauty

African-Americans had better wake up from their stupor if they ever hope to change this racist and fascist system. However, warriors are not going to unseat the naked emperors when they have more concerns about making Neapolitan hair styles instead of getting society to accept the rainbow of groups. As the late Bob Marley said, "Until the significance of a man's skinis no more significant than the color of his eyes, then there will A'Jamai-Rashad Byndon

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Walk Operates As

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UNL delegates attempt 'takeover' at NSSA meeting

By MARK ELLIOTT
For Paul Hays, UNO's Nebraska State Student Association (NSSA) coordinator, the 12th Legislative Assembly of the NSSA was a joke. 'There were some feelings hurt;" Hays said: He said most student delegates were upset and angry about the experience.

"UNL tried to take over," Hays said. "They

tried to shove everything through really quick."

More than 50 delegates from UNO, UNL and Peru, Wayne and Chadron State Colleges met at Peru State Nov. 8 to determine the organization's policies for the remainder of 1986 and 1987. UNO was represented by 12 delegates, and UNL had 27 delegates in attendance, Hays.

David Melton, UNL's NSSA coordinator said, It just happened that the majority vote fell into the hands of UNL." Because of that, he said, it appeared they were forcing every issue.

The UNL delegates seemed "brainwashed." Hays said. "I don't agree with that College students can make up their own minds. They were like zombies.

The delegates passed only one policy at the assembly. That policy calls for the NSSA to advocate extending voting power to student members of the Board of Regents and State College Board of Trustees. The delegates approved the policy 27-23. All delegates except UNL's voted against the policy.

Melton said the UNL delegates did vote as a block, and he could see where Hays might see a "zombie" attitude. "It looked that way," he said. But he added that, for "90 percent of the delegates, this was their first time.

Because of the inexperience, Melton said, the first-time delegates did not know how to vote or what they were voting on.

Hays also questioned several policies submitted by UNL for approval. One policy would declare the NSSA in fayor of economic sanctions against South Africa.

"That has no place in the NSSA," Hays said: "Who came up with that anyway?"

Melton said the policy supporting economic sanctions was included because the UNL delegates "just wanted to see what everyone thought of it." He said the policy previously was approved by the UNL Student Senate.

Melton said no one group was to blame for the breakdown at the November assembly. "It was a confusing time for everyone," he said, UNL's NSSA representatives might consider withdrawing controversial policies such as the one pertaining to South Africa, Melton said.

Because so little was accomplished at the assembly, Hays said, the NSSA will meet in January at Wayne State College.

Overall, Hays said, "I was very disappointed in the UNL delegation."

n-campus nurse sought

(continued from page 1)

Health Center will continue to be Dr. Robert Bass, chairman of Family Practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, she said.

"The setup with Dr. Bass at the Medical Center has been good for us. If he's not available when we need him, one of his colleagues will fill-in. That means we can get exceptionally good people to help us, even as substitutes,' Hewins-Maroney said.

Dr. Bass and the UNO Student Health Advisory Committee will select the new nurse practitioner, she said. The committee includes several students appointed by student government, one representative from the Staff Advisory Council, and faculty members who have a special interest in the Health Center.

"We always try to hire someone with at least one year of experience in the field," Hewins-Maroney said. "Dr. Bass, is especially concerned about our giving injections at the center, because there have been so many cases of allergic reactions to vaccines across the nation."

Before Helzer's resignation, the Health Center offered flu shots and other standard injections, as well as minor surgery and a variety of routine tests. At this time, however, the Health Center offers only first aid, referrals to other offices and over-the-counter medications such as aspirin.

Most of the services previously available should be available again if a nurse practitioner is hired. Hewins-Maroney said. All services to students are paid for with student fees. Faculty and staff are charged minimal fees for individual procedures.



Photo by David Barnes

Ten-hut!

UNO Army ROTC Cadet Tom Steiner barks out orders to cadets in his platoon, from left, Bill Chapman, Pat Bauer, Matt Kelly and Mike Pritchard. Steiner is impersonating Maj. Norman Comstock, UNO's Army ROTC leader, during a skit poking fun at Army leaders and practices. The skits were part of an annual dinner put on by members of both UNO and Creighton Army ROTC units. The dinner was held Nov. 14.



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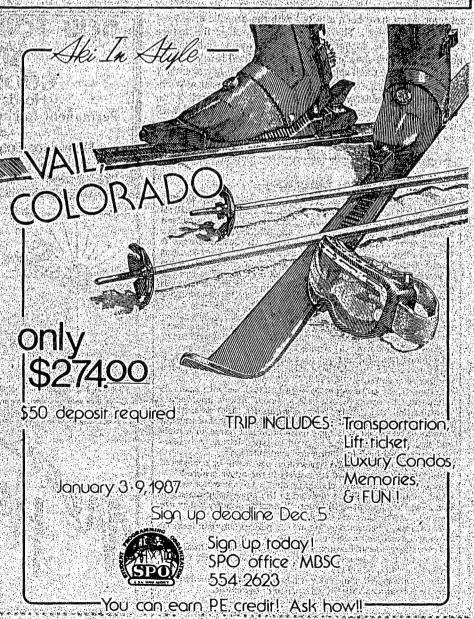
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Features

Other cities were 'too expensive, dangerous or fun'

Venezuela native studies 'fashionable' English at UNO

Part one of a series about UNO's international students By RICH MILLS

Jesus Alberto Pólanco of Maracay, Venezuela, didn't come to Omaha for the climate. He came to study English and computer science at UNO. Nebraska's winter weather was a bonus.

"I love the cold weather," Polanco said. "In my country, we



"Even in Venezuela all of my textbooks were in English. The advanced technology

comes from the United States." -Jesus Alberto Polanco

have two seasons: when it's raining and when it's hot. But when it's raining it's hot anyway. Cold weather is something new for me. I like it a lot.

Polanco arrived in Omaha on Jan. 15, two days before his 21st birthday. "It was about 10 or 12 degrees," he said, "with

The weather was no surprise to him, but not because he had

heard a forecast. Call it word-association meteorology.

"In Spanish," he said, "snow is 'nieve' (pronounced nee-AY-bay). So when I heard 'Nebraska,' I thought it must be a very, very cold, snowy place. It is. But I thought it would be like Alaska or Siberia all the time."

Since his arrival, as Nebraska's weather turned from Siberian to something more akin to Venezuela's clime, Polanco has been polishing his English in UNO's Intensive Language Program (ILUNO). Last month, he scored well enough on a test of English as a second language to qualify for admission to the university next semester.

Polanco studied systems engineering, the designing of computer systems, for four years at Universidad Metropolitan in Caracas. However, he said, to continue in the field he needed to master English.

"Even in Venezuela," he said; "all of my textbooks were in English. The advanced technology comes from the United States. That's why I wanted to study here."

Polanco also had a less practical reason to improve his English. "In my country, the people who speak English are very fashionable. You are 'in' if you speak English."

He has already used his new language skills to impress his

"They feel very proud when I call and speak to them in English - just for kidding, because they don't speak it. They have fun with that. When I speak to the operator in English they flip out."

Polanco's native language is Spanish, but his favorite language



is English. And UNO has been a great place to learn it, he said. "I had a friend who was in California studying English, and she didn't learn anything," he said. "She came here for just two

months and learned a lot. People say UNO has one of the best English programs in the United States.

However, when Polanco decided to come to the United States, Omaha was not high on his list of places to study.

In fact, it was not on his list at all. "I had never in my life heard of it," he said.

"I wanted to go somewhere everyone knows around the world California, New York, New Orleans." But an adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas told him those places were "too expensive, too dangerous or too fun, and I wouldn't study."

Polanco sought the advice of his father, who told him he had a cousin attending UNO (Pedro E. Polanco, an electronics engineering student).

"So I called him and he said Omaha is a pretty neat city, the people are very nice and they don't have an accent so I would learn English very well. That's the reason I decided to come

Polanco said Omaha is much like his home town, Maracay, a

city of 135,000 southwest of Caracas, "I expected Omaha to be a big city, like Caracas or New York, with tall buildings and everybody in a hurry. But Omaha is very quiet, good for studying - but not too quiet."

He said the best thing about Omaha is the people, "They are so friendly, very different from the opinion that most people have about Americans."

A friend who had lived in Boston told Polanco the people there "didn't like Latins," he said. "She said Americans are so

close, so cold. But when I came here, I found out that it's different."

Polanco said he "speaks a lot of English all day," in class, at his job in the periodicals section of the UNO library and in his

"I love to meet people," he said. "It's my hobby. That and

"I expected Omaha to be a big city . . . with tall buildings and everybody in a hurry. But Omaha is very quiet, good for studying but not too quiet.'

-Polanco

dancing. I dance to everything."

He said he is a soccer fan and enjoys watching American football, but he "can't understand why when they touch some-body and he falls down, 20 people have to pile on top of him."

Polanco's visa permits him to remain in this country as long as he is a student. When he completes his computer science studies, Polanco said, he may go on to get a master's degree or pursue another undergraduate degree, perhaps in journalism. He currently is a reporter for the Forum, the ILUNO newspaper.

After college, Polanco said he probably will move to Spain, where, because it is his mother's native country, he is a citizen.

"I love Spain,"he mused. "It is such a beautiful country. . . ." Sure. But can its climate compare with Nebraska's?



OBSERVER Crossword

Edited by Charles Preston

That's a

36 Antelope

38 China

39 Eating

partner

41 Whirring

43 San -

44 Model

45 Roofing

46 Tune in

48 Bunker

WAY

55 Aside

61 Eye

65 Sub

62 Emma

64 Relative

out of.

68 Abjure

69 Speed up a

58 Prefix for

centric

59 Joint filler

52 Priced in a

rounds



141 Chorister's 19 The Wreck of DOOK 20 To now

DOWN 1 Saying 2 Belong

4 Give an example 5 Extreme 6 Witness 7 Daze

paint

15 Picker in

novel

121 Code book: sl. 122 Past 123 Scoop 124 Nuncupative 125 Salt flats 128 Time or life

180 Plain 133 Congressional 66 Get mileage speeches 135 Harmonicas 188 Gas burners 187 Chorister's Bong

99 Gulper

103 Size

100 Unanimously

104 First shift

107 Glove material

108 Hebrew letter

109 Encourage

111 Cold rain.

119 Wild rose

112 Searched out

116 Fissile rocks

106 Expensive

24 Bewildered 26 Course 8 Scenic views 8 Like a certain leaf

9 Cheap or poor 10 City in Nevada 11 Truman's inita. 12 Insects 13 -horse to water 14 Emulsion

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38 Bulrush 40 Speak at length 41 Speak out of turn 42 Classic villain 43 Taunt 45 Fretum 46. Cutting remarks 47 Capri 49 Extraordinary

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30 On the floor

37 Attracted

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50 Double or secret 51 Mails 52 Gelatin 53 On course 54 In reverse 55 Backtalk 56 Urban

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words

68 Rent again

70 Advice to

leading lady

67 Casey's

83 Jackie's family 84 Dies -86 Campus figure 87 Leave 89 Laugh 90 Stravinsky 92 Jack - pulpit 94 Editor's mark 96 Edge out

97 False glitter

98 On purpose

103 Nobleman 105 Light hal 108 Shish 110 Hardwood 111 Wild pink 112 Veneer 113 Pub 114 Woman

adviser 115 On the back 116 Decline 117 Moscow's client 118 Make sense 119 Confederate general 120 Climbing palm 121 Swindles 124 Idle: Scots 126 At a distance 127 Signorina's

coin 129 Particle

131 -- Paul 132 Summer time 134 Sound from

28-across







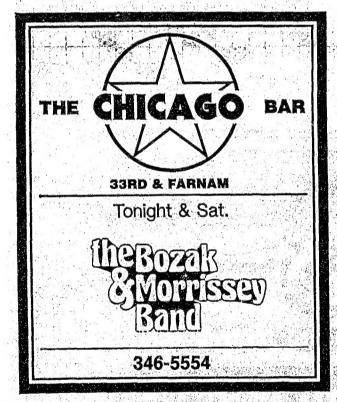


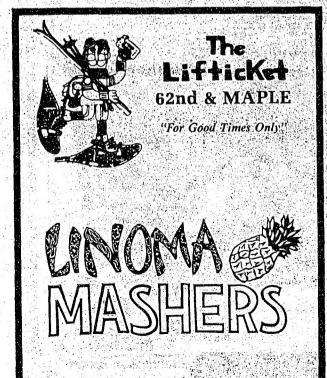
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Seminar emphasizes body language as self-defense

By NANCY CORMACI

"Be alert, be aware, be on-guard" is the message Dave Points and Mike Denney made repeatedly in their Nov. 10 "Street Awareness Seminar" at UNO's HPER Building.

"Street awareness is being aware of the environment around you," said Dave Points, an eight-year veteran of law enforcement. "The biggest problem is your state of mind."

The common offender chooses his victim carefully and has a planned method of operation. If they are preoccupied and unaware, people stand little chance against a would-be attacker, Points said.

Body language, the way you walk, your posture and the expression on your face, could make you an easy target, said Mike Denney, UNO wrestling coach.

An attacker wants the job done "quickly and quietly" and picks an individual who looks easy to control. A confident stride and acute peripheral awareness could be your most valuable defense, said Denney, who holds a second degree black belt in judo.

"We have no system (of self-defense) that's foolproof — that's the essence of our seminar," Denney said. Whether an individual chooses to defend himself physically (karate, judo or other self-defense courses) or mechanically (chemical repellents, stunguns, or firearms), there is no ultimate defense system, Denney said.

Training not always helpful

A person needs two to three years of intense training for these techniques to be any good, and then one knows what one's attacker will do, Denney said, but in the street it's different. An individual could hold a 10th-degree black belt and not be able to defend himself on the street.

Denney suggested using a boxer stance as an effective way to deflect oncoming blows and resist being thrown to the ground. Drop one leg back and bend the knees to provide a firm footing, then bring both arms up with elbows in close to deflect blows and protect your head, Denney explained.

Once the decision is made to physically defend oneself, one should strike an attacker's most vulnerable areas — the eyes and groin,

In order to effectively strike the eyes, form a claw with the hand and force the fingers into the eye as deep as the second knuckle, Denney said. Do not use just two fingers, because it is too easy to miss one's target, Denney said.

A knee- or loose-legged kick (bring knee up and kick out) to the groin must be "sudden, quick and explosive" and is effective only if one can raise an attacker at least a foot off the ground, he said

Neither of these techniques should be used until a person is confident of success, and even their such defenses should only be a peans of gaining time to lies. Denney said:



Photo by Scot Shugart

Mike Denney, left, and Dave Points demonstrate self-defense items. Denney, UNO head wrestling coach, holds a baton as Points, a police officer who helps give self-defense seminars during his off-duty hours, holds a stun gun.

As crime statistics continue to increase many people turn to mechanical systems as a means of protection. The major disadvantage of all mechanical systems is their possible failure to work when needed.

Two types of Mace

Mace operates like any aerosol can, and its disadvantages are apparent. The nozzle easily can become plugged, the device must be aimed, and the can itself should be replaced every year.

There are two types of Mace, CN and CS. CN is faster acting (taking one to five seconds for the burning sensation to develop), but CS is a stronger agent and will linger longer on the skin.

A disadvantage of Mace is its inability to affect a certain percentage of the population, Larger people and those using drugs or alcoholican be less affected by the chemical repellent.

Mace may do nothing more than keeping you alert; but this may be the best reason for carrying it. Points said.

Stun gun problems

Stun guns recently have been the focus of much commercial hyperand are advertised as the ultimate defense system." However there are several disadvantages to stun guns, said Points.

a sergeant with a large metropolitan police department.

Aside from the fact that stun guns require a 9-volt battery and lose 2 percent of their power daily, their biggest drawback is how close to an attacker someone must be to use the device, Points said.

The potential victim must thrust the gun into the suspect's side and hold it there for three to five seconds. At this range, an attacker could disarm and torture a person with his own stungun, Points said.

Under an Omaha city ordinance, stun guns are considered legal if not concealed, Points said. On the other hand, if the device is not out and ready, it does little good, and the same holds true for mace, Points said.

Before one considers purchasing a firearm, one should answer five basic questions, Points said.

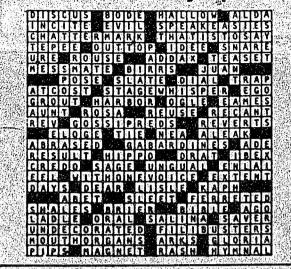
1) Do I have a need for a firearm, and can I incorporate it in a self-defense system?

self-defense system?
Statistics show only 2:3 percent of all firearms in the home must supplied ONU nonSee Awareness.

"self-defense system?
Statistics show only 2:3 percent of all firearms in the home must be supplied on the continued on page 9)



Solution to today's puzzle



This Week

NOVEMBER FRIDAY 21st

- Chapter Summary Bible Study, Gallery Room, third floor Student Center, 11 a.m.
- Nebraska Theater Festival, "La Ronde," performed by Wayne State College, University Theater, Arts and Sciences Hall, 11 a.m. Admission to individual plays \$5; festival admission (good for all performances) \$20.
- Nebraska Theater Festival, audition workshop, Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 214, 4 p.m.
- Basketball, Lady Mays vs. Northwestern College, UNO Fieldhouse, 5:45 p.m.
- Student Programming Organization (SPO) Fall Film Festival, "The Life of Brian," Eppley Auditorium, 7 and 9:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday.
- Nebraska Theater Festival, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' performed by Hastings College, University Theater, 8 p.m. Basketball, Mavericks vs. Bellevue College, UNO Fieldhouse,
- Nebraska Theater Festival, reception, UNO Art Gallery, 11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 22nd

- Wrestling, UNO Open, UNO Fieldhouse, 9 a.m. Nebraska Theater Festival, critique of "Chekhov at Yalta,"
- Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 214, 10 a.m.
- Nebraska Theater Festival, audition workshop, Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 214, 4 p.m.
- Nebraska: Theater: Festival; "Chekhov at Yalta;" performed by UNL, University Theater, 8 p.m.
- Nebraska Theater Festival; reception, UNO Art Gallery, 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 23rd

- Nebraska Theater Festival, critizue of "Chekhov at Yalta;" Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 214, 10 a.m.
- Nebraska Theater Festival, "The Marriage of Bette and Boo," performed by Nebraska Wesleyan University, University Theater, 2 p.m.
- Basketball, Lady Mavs vs. Doane College, UNO Fieldhouse,
- UNO faculty brass concert, Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall, 3 p.m.
- SPO Fall Film Festival, "Jabberwocky," Eppley Auditorium, 4 and 7 p.m. Jazz saxophonist David Sanborn in concert, sponsored by SPO,
- Orpheum Theater, 7:30 p.m. UNO Choir concert, Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital
- Hall, 8 p.m.

MONDAY 24th

Harvi Griffin harp recital, Student Center Ballroom, noon. Auditions for "American Buffalo" by David Mamet, Arts and Sciences Hall, Room 214, 7 p.m. today and Tuesday: For information call 554-2406.

TUESDAY 25th

Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting, Omaha Room, third floor Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY 26th

- THANKSGIVING VACATION NO CLASSES
- Next Gateway Dec. 3.

THURSDAY 27th

THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY 28th

Circle Theater, "Tilly's Holiday Extravaganza;" Joe and Judy's Cafe, 6064 Maple St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.; performance begins at 8 p.m.: Tickets for dinner and show \$10; show only \$6. Performances continue Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 23.

DECEMBER MONDAY 1st

- · Classes resume at 7 a.m. WEDNESDAY 3rd
- Organ recital, Jerry Kaminski, Strauss Performing Arts Cen-
- SPO Rising Star Series, Bobby's Blue Band, Student Center Ballroom, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- UNO Studio Theater, "Fefu and Her Friends," location to be announced. For location and ticket information call 554-2335.

Coach: No sure self-defense exists; confidence, awareness may be best

(continued from page 8)

are used for self-defense, while 83 percent are used in suicide, 10 percent in criminal homicide against a member of the family and 3 percent in home accidents, Points said.

2) Could I take a human life?

3) Am I going to take the time necessary to learn proper gun-handling and marksmanship?

Most people buy a small purse gun and think they have the ultimate in self-protection, when in reality that poses a possible threat to themselves and their family, Points said.

4) Once I purchase a firearm, will I take the time to educate

5) Am I aware of the criminal code, and am I willing to accept civil liability for my actions?:

If one answers no to any of the five questions, Points does not recommend using a gun for protection.

"'Don't take chances — trust your instincts," Points said. The common criminal wants the job done successfully without the possible threat of prosecution, he said. A victim's best defense is to make noise in order to attract someone's attention who could possibly aid the victim, or to identify an attacker in a court of law. If there is no one around, try to get to a lighted area,





Sports

UNO Open nation's largest

into one day tomorrow at the UNO Open, the largest one-day wrestling meet in the nation.

Over 500 wrestlers are expected to compete in the 11 weight classes, with more than 1,000 matches required before the last champion is

"It's pretty salty competition," UNO Coach Mike Denney said. "But it's great for wres-

Denney ticked off the perennial powers that would attend: "Iowa State, Oklahoma State; Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming from Division I will be here. There are six teams from the North Central Conference that are in the Division II ratings, and four of them will be here. From the NAIA we'll have Kearney State and Central State Oklahoma," he said. "Buena Vista and Central Iowa will be here. You know you're good if you do well in that kind of competition.

In an "open meet," wrestlers who have graduated and are out of college eligibility can compete. "You find out where you're at in the wrestling world in a tourney like ours," Denney said. "Sometimes your young guys can hold their own with the best. You have to guard against overmatching a young wrestler A division will wrestle down to sixth place.

In the Mavs' season-opening tournament at the Central Missouri State Open, junior Steve Jakl, a former state champion at Millard North,

"Our top wrestlers can compete with anybody . . . If we can get four to six wrestlers to place, I'll be happy,

—Coach Mike Denney

faced up to the open competition and came away with third place.

Jakl went 5-2 in the 118-pound division, and he impressed Denney. "Jaki lost to a Division III All-American from Central Missouri State on his home mat, and to Al Morgan, who finished second in the Big Eight last year," Denney said. "He really wrestled tough.

Our top wrestlers can compete with anybody," Denney said. "R.J. Nebe and Brad Hildebrandt should place for us. If we can get four to six wrestlers to place, I'll be happy.

The UNO Open begins tommorrow at 9 a.m., with finals slated for approximately 7 p.m., in the UNO Fieldhouse. Wrestlers in each



Keith Coleman is head and shoulders above the crowd, and along with No. 4, Eric Robinson, is one of four Mays expected to earn all-NCC honors

Mavs presumed all-NC

Injuries decimated the UNO Maverick relegated Coleman to the second team. football team's chances at the North Central Conference title, but the Mays might have has started 39 games in his UNO career. fared much better in the race for post-season honors

The NCC all-conference team is not scheduled to be announced until next week, but sources close to the team have indicated that four Mays are on the first team.

Linebacker Keith Coleman, who owns the UNO career mark for quarterback sacks with 17.5; heads the list with his third straight all-NCC award. Last year injuries

Coleman is an All-American candidate who "He's the best defensive player I've had at UNO in my nine years here," UNO Coach Sandy Buda said.

Senior kicker Greg Morris, who set an NCC mark with a 57-yard field goal and is the UNO record holder for points by a kicker with 138, is expected to join senior tackle Jim Nekola and sophomore Eric Robinson on the first team. Nekola has started 38 games for UNO; this would be his third straight all-NCC selection uniting 0 . See

NCAA Division II Wrestling Rankings

- 1. Southern Illinois
- 2. North Dakota State
- 3, Cal. State Bakersfield
- 4. Northern Michigan
- 5. Ashland, Ohio
- 6. UNO.
- 7. Portland State
- 8. St. Cloud State
- 9. North Dakota
- 10. San Francisco 11. South Dakota State
- 12. Central Missouri State
- 13. Liberty Baptist
- 14. Bethany Johnstown
- 15. Augustana 🗀
- 16. Pembroke State
- 17. Cal. State Chico
- 18. Wisconsin Parkside 19. Livingston College
- 20: Wright State
- *North Central Conference teams in bold

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Lady Mays favored to win fourth straight NCC title

By TERRY O'CONNOR

The streaking Lady May volleyball team, fresh from clinching its first-ever North Central Conference regular-season championship, battles South Dakota Friday in the first round of the NCC post-season tournament in Fargo,

The Coyotes have struggled to a 4-25 record this year and are expected to be no match for the 39-3 Lady Mays. UNO won the only match: it had against South Dakota this year in straight

UNO will be battling a rash of minor injuries

in addition to a flu bug that recently has hit the team. "Only four members of the team are completely healthy," UNO Coach Janice Kruger said.

UNO trainer Denise Fandel said UNO will be ready to compete. "None of the girls should miss the games," Fandel said. "Their injuries are just a reflection of the intensity of the team. and how they play."

North Dakota State is expected to meet UNO in the conference finals for the sixth' straight season. The Lady Bison won the first two clashes, but UNO has captured the last three post-season titles.

"We've got a chance to do something no one has ever done," Kruger said. "The chance to win the conference four years in a row is our motivation.

The chance to beat arch-rival North Dakota State in the process also has considerable appeal to UNO. "Just going to Fargo gets us up," Kruger said, "But it's a tough place to play the home team. It's a real boost for North Dakota

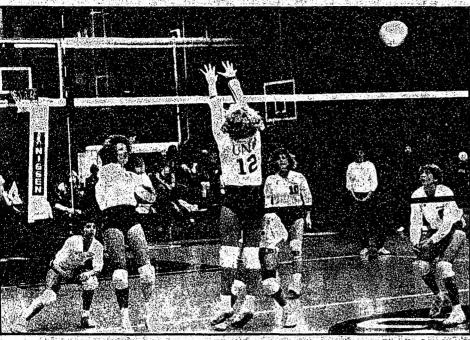
UNO, which earlier in the year put together a school-record win streak of 21 games, now has won 10 straight matches. The Lady Mays have had NDSU's number this year, winning all four matches between the two schools. But the toughest win over NDSU came at Fargo in the North Dakota State Invitational, when the Lady Bison extended UNO to five sets before succumbing 6-15, 15-8, 16-14, 12-15, 15-3.

Also at stake for UNO is the chance to be

awarded the host role for an NCAA Regional. An upset in the tournament wouldn't prevent the Lady Mays from participating in post-season play, but it would wipe out their chances for any more home games. Another factor in the Lady Mays' favor, however, is the NCAA single-game attendance mark of 3,004 set Nov. 8 at the UNO Fieldhouse.

A late-season sag in NCC play has taken a little of the luster off the conference tourney. "In the beginning of the year the conference was closer in terms of talent," Kruger said. "It seems that teams didn't continue with their improvement. Right now there's a big difference after second place."

After the Lady Mavs' dominating play this year, Kruger says all UNO's starters should be considered for all-conference honors. "All the starters have a good chance," Kruger said. "We've got some great players."



UNO Coach Janice Kruger says every Lady May starter deserves all-conference consideration. Pictured from left are Nancy Liebentritt, Ruth Evans, Regina Rule and Lori Schutte. A lone North Dakota player, No. 12, defends.

lassifieds

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Speed Merchants take top spot

ond half of the intramural flag football championship game against Sons of Mosi Tatupu to win 20-13. With the victory, Speed Merchants earned the No. 1 spot in the final university rankings.

Speed Merchants finished 9-0 for the year and handed Sons of Mosi Tatupu their first loss after seven wins, Sons of Mosi Tatupu finished at No. 4 in the ratings, the highest finish of any B-league team.

Intramural Top Ten

3) Lambda Chi Alpha.....(7-1)

6) Dirty Dozen(3-2) 7) Delusions*....(5-1)

8) J.A.F.F.T.(4-2)

* B League teams

A League 1) Speed Mechants.....(9-0) 1) Speed Merchants. 2) Pikes "A" 3) Lambda Chi Alpha..... 4) Sons of Mosi Tatupu*..... (7-1). 4) Old No. 7 5) Old No. 7(5-1) 5) Dirty Dozen 6) J.A.F.F.T.

Speed Merchants, which beat out Pikes "A" and Lamda Chi Alpha to rule the A league, took a 12-7 halftime lead in the title match. Robb Jacoby boosted Sons of Mosi Tatupu into a slim 13-12 lead with about 10 minutes to play with a short touchdown run.

Speed Merchants answered immediately with the winning score. Paul Fox tossed both a touchdown pass and a two-point conversion to provide the final margin.

B League

| 1) Sons of Mosi Tatupu | (7-1) |
|--|--------|
| 2) Delusions | .(5-1) |
| 3) 8 Bucks | (5-2) |
| 4) Pen & Sword | .(4-3) |
| 5) Driving Force Fellons | (3-2) |
| 6) White Bullets | (3-2) |
| The first of the second of the | |

Standings compiled by Joe Kaminski, assistant coordinator of campus recreation.

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UNO student discovers Japan and its culture

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two UNO seniors currently are taking classes at Shizuoka University in Shizuoka, Japan. Shizuoka University is UNO's sister-school. Melissa Switzer and Toni Tribulato left for Japan in early October and are scheduled to return to Omaha after spending one year in the country. This letter is the first of several written by Switzer on

This story contains opinions of the author.

Shizuoka is very beautiful. Mt. Fuji is visible from the window of our room in the international house where we are staying. Shizuoka University is located atop a large plateau. The entire campus consists of slopes — it's a daily workout just getting around. My building, the Humanities College, is at the very tip top of the plateau.

From the roof of the international house, you can get wonderful views of the Pacific Ocean, Mt. Fuji and a good portion of Shizuoka itself.

Not only is the scenery of Japan interesting, so are its people. The one trait I have noticed exclusively since my arrival is the indirectness of the people.

I don't want to stereotype, but the Japanese style of communicating is radically different from Americans' style.

For example, three foreign students, including myself, were waiting for a bus one afternoon. A Japanese friend we knew came up to us. He asked if we were on our way back to the international house. When we said yes, he said he was too. After a few moments of silence, he said "But I have a car." A short time later, we were in his car heading back home.

This was not a case of misunderstanding, because he speaks English like a native. It just demonstrates how indirect the Jap-

The reaction of the Japanese toward me also demonstrates the people's indirectness. One day, I was eating lunch and two male Japanese students came in and began to walk toward my table. As they came nearer, I told them in Japanese to sit down; they did and at once began to talk among themselves. After a few minutes, I said in Japanese, "How do you do? My name is Melissa." They looked at each other like they didn't know what to do. Without saying a word, they hung their heads and began to shovel food into their mouths. They never did say a word to

Shizuoka also features a small-town American attitude. It seems everyone at the university knows everything I do. People I never have met will approach me and tell me what I did last night. Every letter I wrote to my friends here before I came over has been shuffled among most of the students here. I'm told it's because of Japan's vertical society: According to one of my professors here, once you enter a group, you are taken in like family, and your business becomes everyone's business. It's quite a network.

Speaking of networks, I thought UNO was a bureacracy, but it's speedy and efficient compared to the one here at Shizuoka. The Ministry of Education (Monbusho) is especially slow and full of red tape. I still have not received my arrival allowance, which I was supposed to get when I got off the plane in Tokyo. Patience is a virtue, but I'm almost broke.



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